Application No.: 09/888,707 Docket No.: 163933.01

Filed: June 25, 2001

<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 14-19, 23-27 are pending for examination. Reconsideration and

allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully

requested.

Claim 24 is currently amended to correct the informality cited on page 2 of the Office

Action. The Examiner's courtesy in pointing out this informality is appreciated, and the

Applicant now requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 14-19, and 23-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

unpatentable over Coughlin, et al., (U.S. Patent 6,810,411; hereafter "Coughlin") in view of

Pontoppidan, et al., (U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0161872; hereafter "Pontoppidan").

Further, Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yanagidate,

et al., (U.S. Patent 6,128,664; hereafter "Yanagidate"). The Applicant respectfully traverses

these rejections and further requests that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn,

particularly in view of the current amendments.

More particularly, independent Claims 1, 10, and 18 are currently amended to recite

that name query requests are variably transmitted to at least one of plural subnets via an

interface linked to the LAN. As described on page 10 of the specification of the present

application, transmission of naming requests to subnets may be variably disabled if such

transmission is deemed to be, for example, undesirable, unneeded, or not useful. Thus, the

independent claims have been amended to reflect such flexibility. The remaining claims,

including those dependent upon Claims 1, 10, and 18, as well as Claim 27, have been

amended to conform to the amendments described above for the base claim from which

they depend.

It is respectfully submitted that none of Coughlin, Pontoppidan, or Yanagidate teach

or suggest the variance in transmissions, as in the claimed invention. Therefore, in view of

the present amendments and further in view of the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully

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submitted that the pending claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited references;

and it is further requested that the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and 35

U.S.C. §102(e) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

The remaining references of record have been studied. It is respectfully submitted

that they do not compensate for the deficiencies of the references utilized to reject the

pending claims, particularly in view of the current amendments to the claims.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that

the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early and forthright issuance of a

Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

MICROSOFT CORPORATION

Date: October 21, 2005

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